

## West Virginia Tickborne Disease Surveillance Summary, 2000–2010: Talking Points

- From 2000–2010, four different types of tickborne infections have been documented in WV: tularemia, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) and Lyme disease.
- The most commonly reported tickborne disease in West Virginia from 2000–2010 was Lyme disease, which is transmitted by the blacklegged (or deer) tick (*Ixodes scapularis*).
  - Reports of Lyme disease cases increased during this period with a cumulative total of 772 cases reported from 43 counties.
  - The majority (83.7%) of Lyme disease cases during this period were reported by 3 counties in the Eastern panhandle: Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson.
  - Children aged 5 to 9 years had the highest incidence of Lyme disease during this period.
  - For 2010 only, 125 cases of Lyme disease were reported. This is similar to the number of cases reported in 2008 but less than the number reported in 2009.
- The second most commonly reported tickborne disease in WV from 2000–2010 was RMSF, which is transmitted by the American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*).
  - Reports of RMSF cases were stable during this period with a cumulative total of 49 cases reported from 21 counties.
  - Males aged 20–39 years had the highest incidence of RMSF during this period.
- Eight cases of ehrlichiosis were reported from 2000–2010 in 6 WV counties.
  - Persons >60 years of age had the highest incidence of ehrlichiosis during this period.
- Two cases of tularemia were reported from 2000–2010.
- For all tickborne diseases during this period, most cases occurred during late spring and early summer.
- Laboratory support for RMSF is available to healthcare providers through the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE), by calling 1-800-423-1271
- Laboratory support for Lyme disease is available to healthcare providers through the Office of Laboratory Services (OLS), by calling 304-558-3530 ext. 2410
- Avoiding tick bites is the best method for preventing tickborne disease transmission. This can be done through a variety of measures, including:
  - Increasing vigilance when ticks are most active (usually from April–September)
  - Wearing light colored clothing and insect repellent when outdoors
  - Walking in the center of trails
  - Conducting full-body tick checks when returning indoors
  - Using tick-safe landscape methods

Follow this [LINK](#) for the 2010 WV Tickborne Disease Surveillance Summary Report.